

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 330

By Windle

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Corporal Herman Crabtree of the 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Division, United States Army.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, many fine and honorable traditions have arisen from the deep wellspring of honor and bravery possessed by Tennesseans, but there is no finer tradition than that which gave Tennessee its nickname; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of the "Volunteer State" have, throughout the years, willingly forsaken the comforts and securities of inaction by taking up arms against the enemies of this great Nation, risking their lives and leaving their loved ones behind to honorably safeguard the freedoms and liberties guaranteed to all citizens of these United States and vanquishing those who threaten our way of life; and

WHEREAS, the members of the United States Army selflessly serve with courage and gallantry and deserve to be recognized for heroism in the line of duty and model citizenship in our American society; and

WHEREAS, the late Corporal Herman Crabtree of the 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Division, United States Army, rendered sterling service to his country during World War II; were it not for the bravery and selflessness of men and women like Corporal Crabtree, the people of the State of Tennessee, the great nation of which it is a part, and all the citizens of the world may well have succumbed to the tyranny and violence of fascism; and

WHEREAS, in 1943, Herman Crabtree, a senior at the University of Tennessee and a member of the Reserve Officers' Training Corps, was inducted into the U.S. Army; from Knoxville, he was sent to Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, then to the University of Mississippi at Oxford, and then on to Auburn University; and

WHEREAS, finally, he arrived at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where he was assigned to the 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Division, on May 5, 1944; Corporal Herman Crabtree was to serve as a mortar gunner in some of the fiercest fighting in the European Theater; and

WHEREAS, known as "The Century," the 100th Division was deployed to Europe in the summer of 1944 and on November 1 of that year, near Rambervillers, the men of The Century began a 146-day engagement with German forces in France, near the country's border with Germany; and

WHEREAS, over the course of what must have seemed like a single interminable battle to Corporal Crabtree and his fellow soldiers, The Century fought its way northeast, assaulting the enemy along the Maginot Line, which had been taken over by the Germans to serve as a bulwark against Allied encroachment into Germany; and

WHEREAS, on March 15, 1945, the 100th Division launched a massive assault on deeply entrenched German forces at Bitche, a town in the Lorraine region, very near the French-German border; thanks to The Century, and soldiers like Corporal Crabtree, the town was liberated and Allied troops were able to drive far into Germany, meeting the Soviets at the Elbe in April and effectively ending the war in Europe before the summer of 1945; and

WHEREAS, for his bravery in the face of a determined enemy, Corporal Herman Crabtree was awarded the Infantryman's Badge, the Combat Infantryman Badge, and the Bronze Star with one cluster; and

WHEREAS, following his combat duty, Corporal Crabtree served in a finance division from May 1945 until March 4, 1946; his last duty station was Camp Atterbury, Indiana; and

WHEREAS, after his return to Tennessee, Corporal Herman Crabtree taught veterans in Overton County, worked for the University of Kentucky in Christian County, Kentucky, as an Assistant County Agent, and farmed for his sister in Chicot County, Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, Corporal Crabtree again returned to Tennessee, taking up residence in Overton County; he would serve the Farm Bureau as an insurance agent and tax practitioner and later worked as a statistician for the United States Department of Agriculture; and

WHEREAS, on January 13, 2008, Corporal Herman Crabtree died, leaving behind his beloved wife, Betty Crabtree, and his three children, William Howard Crabtree, James Robert Crabtree, and Martha Elizabeth Crabtree; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean also leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly should pause to remember the singular patriotism, courage, and commitment to duty of this exceptional soldier and human being, the late Corporal Herman Crabtree, United States Army, whose loss is mourned by his loving family as well as a grateful nation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor the life and service of Corporal Herman Crabtree of the 398th Infantry Regiment, 100th Division, United States Army, who fought for his country in the European Theater during World War II; we mourn his loss and celebrate the legacy of his heroism in service to his country.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.